23 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/NI

SUBJECT   : NIO Comments on the Steering Group

1. Of the five NIOs who commented, four are concerned that the proposed ground rules for the steering group may be cast in terms that will restrict their flexibility. Both [_____] STAT are anxious that they not be inhibited when reacting to fast-moving situations; [_____] has proposed some explicit language of exception. Both [_____] are worried about individual agencies gaining a new tool with which to impede work on any particular subject or to gain a voice for themselves in work from which we would rather exclude them. Both [_____] STAT seem concerned that NIO responsibilities for coordinating the work of the agencies might be taken over in part by the steering group when it reviews terms of reference. The individual views of these NIOs are attached.

2. [_____] is concerned, in addition, that the steering group's right to be informed about all research under way could provide it access to sensitive work being done in the DDO. Again, he proposes certain language of exception.

3. [_____] all agree that maintaining an inventory of work under way by all agencies is a hopeless task and, even were it possible to do, probably would not be worth the effort.

4. [_____] is the only NIO to suggest that the steering group has not set some useful tasks for itself. Specifically, he suggests it take on:

> a. Consideration of production problems that do not necessarily concern a specific production proposal -- e.g., civil defense, ASW, and competitive analysis.
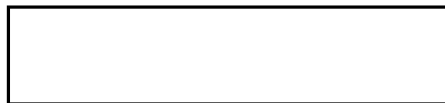
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      b. Authorization of programs of interagency production, not just projects on a case-by-case basis.

      c. Review of issuances of DCI substantive intelligence committees -- e.g., WSSIC, STIC, and JAEIC.

STAT

Executive Officer
National Intelligence

Attachments

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